



Drinking Water Academy Bulletin



A message from IAD's Director

DWA's First Year is a Success

Dear Readers,

This Bulletin marks the 1-year anniversary of EPA's Drinking Water Academy (DWA). The Academy was launched in November 1998 to meet the growing need for training to implement the requirements of the 1996 Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) Amendments. A workgroup of EPA staff and State representatives invested considerable time and effort over the last year to identify training needs, establish priorities, and initiate the development of training materials. I am pleased to report that the Academy's initial activities have proven enormously successful, and we are eager to build on its successes as we move forward.

In our first year, we developed and piloted four training courses providing an introduction to SDWA, and more detailed modules on the Public Water System Supervision, Underground Injection Control, and Source Water Protection programs. We developed a DWA Web site (www.epa.gov/safewater/dwa.html), enabling all EPA and State water program staff, as well as system operators and others in the drinking water community, to access important information and training materials. We also periodically distribute this Bulletin, providing updates on DWA activities and schedules for DWA and other drinking water-related training courses.

In addition, the DWA acts as a forum for implementation training on new rules, including the Microbial-Disinfectants/Disinfection By-products Rule, the Consumer Confidence Report Rule, and Operator Certification Guidelines. We are also offering courses on Sanitary Surveys and Comprehensive Performance Evaluations, both of which include field work.

During FY 2000, the DWA workgroup will develop four new courses and will continue to provide training information through the Web and the Bulletin. The DWA is also starting to develop a cadre of trainers to deliver the courses.

The Drinking Water Academy is a critical component for the successful implementation of

the 1996 SDWA Amendments. The DWA helps to increase the productivity of new drinking water personnel, strengthen implementation efforts, and increase productivity of limited personnel resources at both the State and Federal levels. I look forward to another successful and productive year for DWA.

Sincerely,

William R. Diamond, Director
Implementation and Assistance Division
Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water

Introductory Training Modules Ready

The four introductory training modules developed by the Drinking Water Academy workgroup in FY 1999 have been pilot-tested and are now ready for delivery to State and EPA Regional staff. The modules provide an overview of the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) and detailed information on each of the three major programs that provide protection of our drinking water from source to tap.

Introduction to the Safe Drinking Water Act covers the history of drinking water regulation in the United States prior to SDWA's enactment, as well as an overview of SDWA's evolution up to and including the 1996 Amendments. It describes the process used to set drinking water standards and introduces the three major programs under SDWA. The module also discusses SDWA's relationship to the Clean Water Act.

Introduction to EPA's Drinking Water Source Protection Programs provides information on the hydrologic cycle and on the health effects of contaminants in drinking water. The module introduces the concept of source water protection

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and the elements of the program. It also describes methods used to protect source water and explains how source water protection is related to other drinking water programs.


Introduction to the Underground Injection

Control Program explains what an injection well is and how it relates to subsurface geology. It reviews the origins of the underground injection control (UIC) program and program elements under SDWA. The module also describes some of the challenges facing today's UIC program.

Introduction to the Public Water System Supervision (PWSS) Program

describes the

types of water systems regulated under SDWA and how they operate. The module describes the roles of EPA, States, Tribes, and public water systems in implementing the PWSS program. The module also discusses how regulations are developed and enforced in this program.

The day-long modules can be presented separately, or combined for a full 4-day introduction to SDWA. DWA plans to hold four or five training sessions during FY 2000, including one in New Mexico and another for Region 10 States. Readers interested in scheduling one or more modules for their Regional or State staff should contact Jamie Bourne at (202) 260-5557. 

Update on the Status of Sanitary Survey Training


The Sanitary Survey Training Workgroup met on October 7, 1999, following the Association of State Drinking Water Administrators' (ASDWA's) annual conference. Its primary objective was to propose a long-range plan that will meet the sanitary survey training needs of State regulatory staff over the next decade. The workgroup is chaired by ASDWA and comprises State regulatory representatives, EPA Headquarters and Regional personnel, and other professionals with experience in sanitary survey training.

To gain a better understanding of the current and future status of sanitary survey training needs, ASDWA surveyed the States. The survey's major findings were:

- States expressed a clear need to increase training now.
- Many States thought that their current programs did not adequately meet their needs, primarily due to insufficient resources. This shortfall will grow significantly over the next 5 years.
- States will be hiring additional personnel and will have to redirect resources to meet increased sanitary survey needs.
- States thought a voluntary, national certification program would strengthen State sanitary survey programs.
- There was a high level of interest in making the training more cost effective and, thus, more widely available.

A key challenge facing the workgroup is to develop cost-effective ways of delivering sanitary survey training. The DWA is looking at various

options, including greater use of technology, including Internet-based training and targeted sanitary survey courses. The DWA is considering developing training courses to target small ground water systems and small surface water systems, while still providing the current 4-day training course that covers all types of systems. All courses would include a field exercise, and participants would receive a course manual, videos, and an inspector field guide. Regions and States would have the option of selecting any of the three courses that best suits their needs. Other options include providing materials to enhance on-the-job training, such as Compact Disk/Internet training, video training, telephone, or other means.

Contact Ken Hay at (202) 260-5552 or Bill Davis at (215) 665-7536 for information about setting up training in your Region or State. 

Announcements

ASDWA Schedules Second Conference on Advanced Drinking Water Technology

The Association of State Drinking Water Administrators (ASDWA) will hold its second Advanced Drinking Water Technology Conference in Atlanta, Georgia, on May 7-10, 2000. The conference will familiarize the technical staff of State drinking water programs with treatment technologies that will facilitate the implementation of EPA's Disinfection Byproducts (DBP) Rule and the Interim Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule (IESWTR). The conference will focus on small and medium-sized drinking water systems. Registration is \$100 for State and Federal employees. Other interested persons may participate on a space-available basis for \$150.

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New Class V Regulations and Training

New regulatory requirements for certain Class V injection wells will protect public health and the environment by eliminating or reducing waste injected from large capacity cesspools and motor vehicle waste disposal wells.

EPA Administrator Carol Browner signed the new regulatory requirements on November 23, 1999. They place nationwide bans on new large-capacity cesspools and new motor vehicle waste disposal wells as of April 5, 2000 and require the phase-out of existing cesspools by April 2005.

The requirements for existing motor vehicle waste disposal wells are being linked with critical ground water areas, including some areas assessed through State drinking water source assessment and protection programs. Requirements for existing wells in regulated areas will be phased in over 7 years, at the end of which owners and operators must close their wells or obtain permits.

Background on Class V Wells

Class V injection wells are typically shallow disposal systems that are used to place a variety of fluids below the land surface. Injection wells are regulated by EPA and the States under the authority of the Safe Drinking Water Act through the Underground Injection Control (UIC) program in order to protect underground sources of drinking water (USDWs) from contamination. Class V wells are a concern because they pose a risk to USDWs. Eighty-nine percent of the nation's public water systems rely on USDWs.

Under existing Federal regulations, Class V injection wells are "authorized by rule" (40 CFR Part 144). This means that Class V injection wells do not require a permit if they do not endanger USDWs and if they comply with other UIC program requirements.

Training Under Development

EPA's UIC Workgroup is developing training to explain the provisions of the new rule and its relationship to the source water protection program. The training will be offered to States and EPA Regions and will be held between January and April 2000. The regulation appeared in the December 7, 1999 *Federal Register* and is posted on EPA's Web site at www.epa.gov/safewater/uic/html#classv. For more information about the rule or the training, contact Robyn Delehanty by phone at (202) 260-1993 or by electronic mail at delehanty.robyn@epa.gov.

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For more information, contact Bridget O'Grady of ASDWA at (202) 293-7655.

Training Materials Available On-Line

EPA Region 8, the Bureau of Land Management, and the State of Utah developed and delivered in May 1999 a course for operators of transient non-community water systems. The sections of the course were developed in a variety of formats by the individual speakers. They are available on DWA's Web site (www.epa.gov/safewater/dwa/electronic.html) for review or downloading.

For more information about the rule and training, contact Robyn Delehanty at (202) 260-1993 or delehanty.robyn@epa.gov.

Drinking Water Academy Contacts

Contact	Location	Telephone	E-mail
MaryJo Feuerbach	Region 1	(617) 918-1578	feuerbach.maryjo@epa.gov
Leonard Torrey	Region 2	(212) 637-3846	torrey.leonard@epa.gov
Rick Rogers	Region 3	(215) 814-5711	rogers.rick@epa.gov
Janine Morris	Region 4	(404) 562-9480	morris.janine@epa.gov
John Taylor	Region 5	(312) 886-4299	taylor.johnc@epa.gov
Bill Davis	Region 6	(214) 665-7536	davis.williamh@epa.gov
Stephanie Lindberg	Region 7	(913) 551-7423	lindberg.stephanie@epa.gov
Dan Jackson	Region 8	(303) 312-6155	jackson.dan@epa.gov
Bruce Macler	Region 9	(415) 744-1884	macler.bruce@epa.gov
Mike Cox	Region 10	(206) 553-1893	cox.mike@epa.gov
Denny Cruz	EPA HQ	(202) 260-7776	cruz.denny@epa.gov
Murlene Lash	EPA HQ	(202) 260-7197	lash.murlene@epa.gov
James Bourne	EPA HQ	(202) 260-5557	bourne.james@epa.gov

Training Course Schedule

Course Title	Audience	Date Scheduled	Location	Contact
Class V Regulation Training	States and EPA Regions	January - April 2000	Regional Offices	Robyn Delehanty EPA HQ (202) 260-1993
Lead and Copper Regulation Training	States and EPA Regions	Winter/Spring 2000*	Regional Offices	Leslie Cronkite EPA HQ (202) 260-0713
SDWIS/FED Data Retrieval Beginner Training	Federal and State staff with SDWIS data retrieval responsibilities	May 2000**	Washington, DC	Michelle Stoner EPA HQ (202) 260-2798
SDWIS/FED Data Retrieval Intermediate Training	Federal and State staff with SDWIS data retrieval responsibilities (must have completed beginner's course)	June 2000**	Philadelphia, PA	Michelle Stoner EPA HQ (202) 260-2798
SDWIS/FED Data Retrieval Advanced Training	Federal and State staff with SDWIS data retrieval responsibilities (must have completed beginner's and intermediate courses)	February 8-10, 2000	Kansas City, KS	Michelle Stoner EPA HQ (202) 260-2798
SDWIS/FED Data Entry and Trouble-shooter's Training	Federal and State staff with SDWIS data retrieval responsibilities (must have completed beginner's course)	April 2000** August 2000**	Boston, MA Dallas, TX	Michelle Stoner EPA HQ (202) 260-2798
SETS Training	Federal and State staff whose responsibilities include retrieving enforcement-sensitive data or accessing the SETS data from SDWIS/FED (must have completed beginner's and intermediate course)	September 2000**	Washington, DC	Michelle Stoner EPA HQ (202) 260-2798
Comprehensive Performance Evaluations (Introduction)	State staff	As requested	Where requested	Bill Davis EPA Region 6 (214) 665-7536
Comprehensive Performance Evaluations (Progressive)	State staff	As requested	Where requested	Bill Davis EPA Region 6 (214) 665-7536
Sanitary Survey Training	Field staff responsible for inspecting and evaluating small water systems	As requested	Where requested	Bill Davis EPA Region 6 (214) 665-7536 David Parker EPA Region 4 (404) 562-9460

*Final dates will be posted on the DWA Web site as soon as they are available (www.epa.gov/safewater/dwa/calendar.html).

**Tentatively Scheduled